

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8553

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP - MRS. CARTER'S SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 068486

1. THE GOL IS FULLY OCCUPIED WITH PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT TO MONROVIA MARCH 18 - 19 OF HEADS OF STATE FROM GUINEA, IVORY COAST, TOGO, GAMBIA AND SENEGAL; THEREFORE, ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE REFTEL WILL HAVE TO BE DEFERRED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EMBASSY/GOL JOINT WORKING GROUP SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES AN INTERIM RESPONSE TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY FURTHER INFORMATION OBTAINED MARCH 20 AND DURING THE PRE-ADVANCE VISIT MARCH 21.

2. WE EXPECT THAT MRS. TOLBERT; MRS. C. CECIL DENNIS, WIFE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER; AND MRS. REGINALD TOWNSENT, WIFE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS, WILL FORM THE NUCLEUS OF THE WELCOMING GROUP FOR MRS. CARTER. WE WILL INFORM YOU OF OTHER NAMES AS WE LEARN THEM.

3. REGARDING LIKELY TOPICS OF DISCUSSION, THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT MRS. CARTER NOTE THE LARGE NUMBER OF LIBERIAN WOMEN OCCUPYING POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE. A
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PARTIAL LISTING WOULD INCLUDE TWO CABINET MINISTERS, A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, THREE ASSISTANT MINISTERS, A UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, AND THE HEAD OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION FORCE. MRS. TOLBERT IS ACTIVE IN SOCIAL WORK, AND HAS TAKEN PARTICULAR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING HOSTELS FOR YOUNG WOMEN AND IN SUPPORTING THE YWCAA.

4. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THE NATIONAL CULTURAL TROUPE FOR ITS VISUAL AND AUDIO ATTRACTIONS. DURING THE BICENTENNIAL THE TROUPE TOURED THE U.S. AND PERFORMED ON THE MALL. IT IS COMPOSED OF APPROXIMATELY 60 DANCERS, MUSICIANS AND SINGERS CHOSEN FROM ALL OVER LIBERIA, AND GIVEN FURTHER TRAINING AND SCHOOLING AT THE NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER. ROUTINES ARE FAST, ENERGETIC AND OFTEN SLIGHTLY HUMOROUS. SOME TINY ACROBATS, BETWEEN 8 AND 12 YEARS OLD, ARE ESPECIALLY APPEALING. A SITE LARGE ENOUGH IS AVAILABLE. REGARDING SCENARIO TWO, WE BELIEVE THE INDIGENT CHILDREN'S HOME WOULD HAVE MOST VISUAL IMPACT AND APPEAL, BUT PREFER TO AWAIT CONSULTATION WITH GOL LADIES BEFORE MAKING FINAL RECOMMENDATION. LOGISTICS FOR A LARGE GROUP CAN BE HANDLED (BUT WE WOULD LIKE A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS LIKELY TO ACCOMPANY). ASSUMPTION CORRECT THAT GOL WILL PROVIDE COMPLETE ESCORT AND BRIEFING BY ITS LADIES FOR MRS. CARTER AND HER GROUP.

6. DATA REQUESTED PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTTEL WILL BE SENT FOLLOWING MARCH 20 MEETING OF EMBASSY/GOL JOINT WORKING GROUP AND MARCH 21 MEETING WITH PRE-ADVANCE TEAM, AT WHICH TIME CHOICE BETWEEN SCENARIOS WILL HAVE BEEN MADE.

7. PAPER COVERING TOPICAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO LIBERIANS IN GENERAL FOR USE OF MRS. CARTER AND MRS. VANCE TO FOLLOW.
CARTER

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